

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe



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From Sacramento*

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Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Speaker Pro Tem

Legislative Update: Bills Progressing as Session's End Nears

With the end of this legislative year approaching, I am working hard in the Assembly to get important bills passed. My legislation to help conserve California's precious water supply, improve our regional governance, and protect school employees is moving successfully through the legislative process. My Assembly Bills, 514, 361, and 310 were all recently approved by the Senate and now are waiting for the Governor's signature.

- **AB 514** requires the installation of water meters on all residential and non-agricultural commercial buildings by January 1, 2013. Studies show that the use of water meters, which track the actual amount of water a household or business uses, reduces water waste and promotes conservation. My bill also requires water billing to be based on meter readings of the actual volume of water used by the same date.
- **AB 361** is a follow-up to previous legislation that consolidated regional governance agencies. My bill provides guidance and requirements on the process to be used for this consolidated agency in addressing transportation, land use planning and other quality of life elements for the San Diego region. The Regional Transportation Consolidation Act was a first step that required following up to ensure that the San Diego region has a planning agency whose goal is to improve our quality of life.
- **AB 310** seeks to protect classified school employees and their unions by requiring that a school or community college that collects or deducts employee organization dues from an employee's salary, transmit the money to the employee organization within 15 days. Current law contains this requirement for teacher's union dues but does not include other school employees. My bill would make the 15-day requirement universal for classified school employees and teachers, enabling employee organizations to provide the best services possible for their members.

To find out more information about these and other bills, you may visit www.leginfo.ca.gov and search for bills by author, bill number, or keyword.

Select Committee on Gas Pricing Holds Hearing

Californians are paying some of the highest gas prices in the United States, and San Diegans are paying some of the highest prices in California. The tremendous costs to consumers have effects that ripple through the entire state economy. As Chair of the Select Committee on Gasoline Competition, Marketing, and Pricing, I am working with legislators, representatives from the industry, and consumer advocates to find solutions to California's gasoline market and pricing problems.

On August 27, 2003, the Committee held a hearing on "Developing a Strategic Approach to Affordable and Stable Prices at the Pump." At the hearing, two panels – one made up of regulating agencies and consumer advocates and one composed of industry experts – made presentations to members of the legislature and answered questions.

This hearing opened the lines of communication among consumers, industry, and legislators to work on comprehensive solutions that will get California's, and especially San Diego's, gas prices back under control.

For more information on the Committee on Gasoline Competition, Marketing, and Pricing, you may visit the committee's web site at: <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/newcomframeset.asp?committee=285>.

San Diego's Organization for Women Business Owners

I recently met with members from the San Diego Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) in my district office.

Thank you, NAWBO, for taking the time to share your concerns.



*Assembly-
member
Kehoe meets
with
NAWBO's
board
members.*

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State Auditor's Report on Workers' Comp

The Bureau of State Audits is an independent auditing agency that acts as a watchdog for state government. The Bureau ensures that government funds and resources are being used in the most efficient manner possible and makes sure that state agencies and programs are appropriately managed. On August 27th, the Bureau released its latest report, which details its findings in an investigation of the California Workers' Compensation system:

California's Workers' Compensation Program:
The Medical Payment System Does Not Adequately Control the Costs to Employers to Treat Injured Workers or Allow for Adequate Monitoring of System Costs and Patient Care.

The Bureau of State Audits' reports, including this one, are available to the public through their website <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/bsa>.

Raising Awareness about Natural Gas Vehicles

The California Natural Gas Vehicle Partnership (CNGVP) focuses on the importance of a transition to low-emission and naturally-powered vehicles, especially in the densely populated areas of Southern California where emissions pose health risks. An environmentally minded organization, CNGVP is composed of federal and state air quality, transportation and energy agencies, together with vehicle manufacturers, and fuel providers. The partnership seeks to increase the number of natural gas vehicles used by government, business, and consumers in California.

To learn more about this organization and find information about natural gas vehicles and other clean-air options, visit www.cngvp.org.

The Californian Recognized as Official State Tall Ship

On September 3, 2003 I officially designated *The Californian* as a California State Symbol, mandated by the passage of my Assembly Bill 965 into California State Law. The ship is a replica of a Gold Rush era cutter, and is owned by the San Diego Maritime Museum. Although it is harbored here in San Diego, *The Californian* has sailed as far as New York for the centennial of the Statue of Liberty celebration, and has represented California in many national maritime events. Now the ship that has served for years as an ambassador of our state is also a historic state symbol.

To learn more about *The Californian* and the San Diego Maritime Museum, visit www.sdmaritime.com.



Assembly-member Kehoe presents a Resolution honoring *The Californian* to Ken Andersen, President of the San Diego Maritime Museum's Board of Trustees.

Photos by Cathy Joyce



The Californian sails on the Sacramento River

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